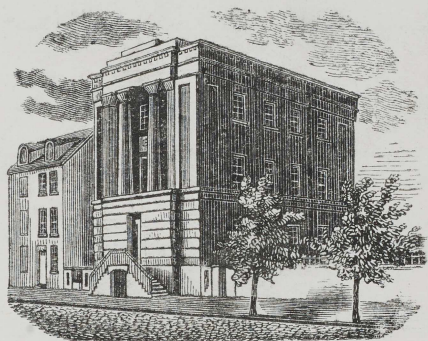


AN ESSAY ON

*The Superiority of Homoeopathic Surgery*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

*On the seventeenth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and  
Fifty-six.*

*By James A. Kerrison  
Of Pittsburg, Pa.*

The term Surgeon is derived from two  
Greek words. *Chir*. The hand and *Argon*.  
work. The work of the hand and is that  
part of the healing art which relates  
to external diseases and their treatment  
and especially to the manual operations  
necessary for their cure or removal.

In early times War made the healing  
of wounds of more importance than  
the curing of diseases as the simple  
manner of living in those days made  
diseases less frequent and much more  
easily treated than at present.

Honorable mention is made of the Surgeons  
who accompanied the Argonautic expedition  
also of Surgeons in the Trojan war.  
At a later period the Greek and  
Arabian physicians cultivated Surgery



and medicine together but in the  
time of Hippocrates some operations  
were not allowed to be performed by  
physicians and among the Arabians  
it was considered beneath the dignity  
of a physician to operate himself and  
among the Romans operations were  
generally performed by slaves. In the  
middle ages the practice of medicine  
was mostly confined to Monks and  
Priests but in 1163 the Council of  
Tours passed a law prohibiting the  
clergy from performing operations  
on the ground that the church  
detested bloodshed. At this time  
Medicine and Surgery were completely  
separated and about 1096 Surgery was  
taken up by the barbers and for

several centuries the practice of Surgery  
remained in their hands. But as  
The darkness of the middle ages  
disappeared, several works were written  
upon this science, and enlightened  
by the knowledge of Anatomy it has  
continued to rise higher and higher  
and in 1731 a surgical academy  
was established in France which  
soon became celebrated throughout  
all Europe. Since that time many  
other schools have been established in  
Europe and in the United States  
and the Chair of Surgery is now  
considered one of the most important  
and honorable stations in the Faculty  
of all Medical schools and instead  
of the ignorant class who once



attended to surgical operations have  
arisen a profession consisting of  
men most learned and honorable.  
and at the present time none save  
the best Anatomists and most  
skillful operators dare perform operations  
in this branch of science. But  
up to the advent of Homoeopathy all  
surgical cases were treated upon one  
general principle namely "Cauterization"  
but we are in possession of facts and  
data enough to prove the Superiority  
of Homoeopathic Surgery over the  
mode practised by those who belong to  
the Allopathic school. So far as  
the manual operations in Surgery are  
concerned we do not differ from them  
but in the accompanying medical

Treatment we do suffer very much.  
For instance in Surgical cases which  
come under Allopathic treatment after  
the wound has been dressed & the fracture  
reduced and reaction takes place accompan-  
ied by febrile symptoms Bleeding  
purging cupping and sucking are the  
order of the day and the consequences  
are that the already reduced system  
is brought still lower and in the majority  
of cases never recover their wonted vigor  
and health. Now in the same cases  
we would dress the wound or reduce  
the fracture and then use our infinitesimal  
doses of Arnica or Aconite which would  
do all the good the Allopath expects.  
but in nine cases out of ten fails  
to relieve from his Bleedings purging &c



and is accompanied by none of the evil  
effects of such truly barbarous treatment  
but leaves the system unimpaired and  
vigorous so that it will be repaired  
much sooner than when reduced by  
Allopathic treatment. For a long time  
after the advent of Homoeopathy Surgery  
was left in the dark by Homoeopathy  
and abandoned almost entirely to our  
Allopathic brethren but as the science  
progressed more attention was paid to this  
branch of the profession and it was  
soon found by experience that in  
this branch as well as every other  
Homoeopathy excelled. Very many diseases  
such as Cancer Erysipelas Hemorrhoids  
and various fungous growths in which  
the Allopath has no remedy cure.

his applications and the knife give  
way to the infinitesimal doses of the  
Homoeopath. The Allopath examines a  
case looks wise and bloody and  
pronounces an operation necessary  
never looking any deeper than the  
excessance he sees upon the skin.

He performs his operation. But does  
he remove the disease. I answer, No.

He removes the effect of the disease  
but leaves the primary cause un-  
dermined to resume its ravages anew.

Now before prescribing or operating in  
such cases the Homoeopath looks deeper  
and searches for the cause, destroys  
it, and the root of the evil being  
indicated the product must be for-  
ward of support and the patient



is left with his constitution unimpaired  
from having undergone a tortuous  
operation which in some cases out of  
ten would result in no permanent  
benefit. and at the same time runs  
the risk of losing his life. In  
confirmation of the statements we have  
made we beg leave to compare the  
different treatment in some few  
cases to illustrate. In Punctate Ophthalmia  
Druitts treatment is to wash the eye  
frequently with a weak astringent  
collyrium and a drop of a solution  
of two grains of Nitrate of Silver to an  
ounce of distilled water should be put  
between the lids with a camels hair  
pencil and the lids smeared at night  
with citric ointment Bowels kept open

by means of Calomel followed by castor  
oil or Rhubarb. if there is great  
tumefaction a leech applied to the  
eye lid and half a grain of calomel to  
given every eight hours if the insiae  
has become thickened they must be  
scraped and touched afterwards  
with sulphate of copper and a few  
threads of cotton spread with a  
blistering plaster may be laid between  
the external ear and the head so as  
to create a discharge. If the cornea ulcerate  
or slough or if the discharge be obstinate  
tonics are required and the astringent  
collyria should be persevered in he  
gives no Prognosis of the disease. but  
we should suppose that after having  
gone through this course of treatment



That a ~~officer~~ would be the next thing  
required. at least it would be regular  
practice. The two following cases of  
this disease were treated Homoeopathically  
by Dr W<sup>m</sup> A. Gardner after the above  
treatment had been followed throughout  
for five weeks and for once failed  
to kill where it is sure not to cure.

The following remedies were used Merc. 30  
and Sulphur 30 followed by other  
appropriate remedies. Both eyes were  
affected. in two weeks the right eye  
was perfectly cured but it was three months  
before the left was healed. The second  
case was treated with Arsenicum Sulphur  
and Phos at intervals of a week and  
cured in four months. Another case  
came under my own observation as it

was treated by one respectable physician  
Dr J. P. Lake. A little girl three  
years of age had measles and took  
cola while recovering. The lids of both  
eyes became inflamed swollen and  
painful. The discharge at first  
ichorous became purulent and the eye  
balls were involved by the inflammation.  
She was treated by an Allopathic  
physician several months without any  
permanent relief. She was then treated  
by an Eclectic physician but in vain.  
Returning to the old school she was  
treated for some time by the most  
celebrated Oculist in the city but  
with no better success. More than a year  
had elapsed from the beginning of  
the disease when Dr Lake was called



in. The first time he saw the child both eyes were swollen shut so that for three weeks she had not been able to see anything. The lids and eyeballs were inflamed and discharging scalding water and pus. Pulsatilla 30 was given three times per day and the eye ordered to be bathed in warm water. From the second day improvement was rapid and at the end of three weeks she was cured no other remedy was given but Pulsatilla. She has enjoyed good health since having only one slight attack of inflamed eyes a year and a half afterwards. Crispelas. in this disease the Allopathic treatment is. first give an emetic followed by a good dose of Calomel

and by black draughts every six or  
eight hours. Bleeding if the patient  
is young and vigorous followed by  
Bark Local applications of Leeches  
Mercurial Ointment Blisters and Nitrate  
of Silver. and Incisions of from two  
to four inches are made when the  
swelling is great followed by poultices  
and Nitric acid Ointment. The principal  
Homoeopathic remedies are Aconite Puls.  
Bry. Lys. Phos Bry. and Arsenicum Dose  
five or six pellets Three times per day  
In Haemorrhoids if the piles are  
inflamed the Allopathic treatment  
is Leeches to the anus or cupping on  
the sacrum a dose of Calomel and  
Opium at bed time followed by Castor  
Oil in the morning warm fumigations



and fistulas and these are generally  
followed by the knife or ligatures  
and when thus extirpated in the  
great majority of cases the disease  
either settles on some other important  
organ or returns in an aggravated  
form. The principal Homoeopathic  
remedies are *Box. Sulphur. Opium*  
& *Acetate*. The reason why we have taken  
these diseases to compare the merits  
of the two systems of treatment are.  
Because they are common diseases and  
met with nearly every day in practice  
and therefore the best criterion to  
judge by. We will give one or two  
more cases and we hope that we  
have proved to the unprejudiced mind  
that the Homoeopathic treatment of

Surgical cases is not only the easiest  
to the patient but the safest quickest  
and best mode of treatment. In  
cases of Hydrophobia the Allopath  
does not pretend to cure but states  
that the best that can be done  
is to try and relieve the patients  
sufferings as much as possible by  
Opium and other sedatives. But  
thanks to Wahnenan and the Law  
Similia Similibus Curantur. we have  
no such hopeless prognosis in  
Homoeopathic treatment. Bell. Lachris.  
Hyoscinus Stramonium and Conium are  
the principal remedies and several  
cases are reported cured by them.

Contraction of the Flexor Tendons of  
the fingers. This disease is pronounced



incurable by Dr. J. B. Cooper. But  
a case in our record as cured by  
Dr. Wm. Holcombe. Homoeopathic by the  
use of Sulphur and Silicia. Along  
with these we have hundreds of other  
cases equally successful but we  
will conclude by hoping that far  
as the science of Homoeopathic  
Surgery has advanced that under  
the instructions of the competent  
Instructors in this branch that it  
will advance much farther

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Published monthly of January, Eighth Month and  
Eighteen

By M. S. Broughton

Of the Philadelphia College of Homoeopathic Medicine